



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA Honors Wisconsin's Newest Preferred Lender

Milwaukee: Guaranty Bank was honored Friday, November 2, 2007 by the U.S. Small Business Administration for attaining Preferred Lender status with SBA. In a ceremony at Guaranty Bank, SBA District Director Eric Ness and Lead Business Development Specialist Jim Simelton presented a plaque to Guaranty Bank's President of Specialty Lending Dave Frank and SBA Lending Manager/Assistant Vice President Erin Procko.

Guaranty Bank has had an interesting and rapid climb to becoming a preferred lender. They first became a guaranteed SBA lender in December of 2006 utilizing SBA's 7(a) programs. The 7(a) program is SBA's most basic loan program. By February of 2007, Guaranty had attained *SBAExpress* status which allows lenders to use most of their own forms and procedures. In July of 2007, they became a Patriot Express lender. The Patriot Express Loan program is SBA's program for veterans and members of the military community wanting to establish or expand small businesses. October of 2007, brought Guaranty Bank to the Preferred Lender Status. Under the Preferred Lenders Program, SBA delegates loan approval, closing, and most servicing and liquidation authority and responsibility to these carefully selected lenders. Guaranty Bank is one of these selected lenders.

Guaranty Bank's Dave Frank said, "We are honored and excited to receive this high designation from the SBA within less than a year and look forward to providing superior customer service with our new expedited processing ability. Our SBA department is dedicated to offering a wide variety of SBA products to serve all of our small business customers needs."

One of those small business customers needs was well served when Guaranty Bank became the first lender in Wisconsin to utilize the SBA's Patriot Express Loan program with a loan to Larry Gamble who is currently serving on active duty with the US Air Force. Larry plans to retire soon and used the funds to purchase Deep Blue Ventures, a one-stop dive center.

SBA's Eric Ness said, "We are extremely proud to recognize Guaranty Bank as our newest Preferred Lender in Wisconsin. Their climb to reach SBA Preferred Lender status in less than a year demonstrates their deep commitment to the communities they serve and SBA looks forward to a long a rewarding association with them."

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